

# The GOSPEL NEWS

*The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.*

January, 1979

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Offices: 6th & Lincoln Sts.

## A BEAUTIFUL OCCASION AT BRANCH NO. 4, REDFORD, MICH.

What had been a desire for some years was finally accomplished. In one short week we planned and executed our project. With deep pleasure, and in recognition of their faithfulness and many years of service, our Branch honored their senior members over seventy years of age. Many have been like fathers and mothers to us all. Regretfully, many whom we had wished to honor had gone on to their reward to be with the Lord, and several others are invalids at the present time, unable to venture out.

The Sunday morning service of October 8 was devoted to thanking God for having them with us. It was heartwarming to see the happiness on their faces as they were each pinned with a yellow boutonniere or a yellow and white corsage. Doing the honors were Francine Maisano, Sharon Moraco and Becky Thomas. They were escorted to their seats by Leonard LaCivita and Larry Moraco. We sang "Precious Memories".

Adding to our pleasure was the presence of Brother Dominic and Sister Dolores Thomas; Brother John and Sister Alice Romano; Brother Charles and Sister Eileen Smith of Fort Pierce, Florida, and Brother Silver Criscuolo, along with many of our faithful friends.

Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo read from *Exodus 20th chapter, 12th verse*, "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee". He also read to us the Hymn "Each Step of the Way". Brother Gorie Ciaravino read a short history on each honoree and a special certificate of their baptism was presented to them by Brother Dominic Thomas. Brother Thomas then addressed us and congratulated those being honored on their long and faithful service. He then knelt and offered a beautiful prayer in their behalf. We sang Hymn No. 429, "Faith of our Fathers" and were dismissed in prayer by Brother Charles Smith.

A dinner was prepared for all, with a special table set aside for our honored guests, complete with a centerpiece of fresh flowers and candles. The food was served to them by our young people. Everyone enjoyed the large sheet cake baked for this special occasion. Dennis Bruno photographed them all, each to be presented with pic-



tures upon their completion. Corsages and cake were brought to the shut-ins and they were also photographed. Their names are as follows:

Catherine Benedetto	48 years in the Gospel
Carmella Castelli	55 "
Frances Gerace	44 "
Sarah Lombardo	41 "
Alice Mazade	15 "
Muriel Miller	39 "
Rose Morello	40 "
Providence Palermo	49 "
Rose Valzania	40 "
Vincent Aquilino	51 "
Gaetano Gerace	46 "
Ralph Leet	28 "
Jerome Palermo	49 "
Carlo Saragosa	35 "
Anthony Vicelli	6 "

On October 23rd we held a special meeting with Brother Joseph Lovalvo as our guest speaker. Many of our brothers and sisters from the Detroit area came to hear him. Present also were Brothers Dominic Thomas, Nick Pietrangelo and Gorie Ciaravino. We truly appreciated the effort Brother Lovalvo made to be with us after the strenuous week of meetings he attended at the October conference.

He spoke to us from *II Nephi, chapter 3* on the many

plain and precious things taken from the *Bible*, and how the *Book of Mormon* has given us much knowledge in these areas. How the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* would grow together to the confounding of false doctrines.

Brother Dominic Thomas also spoke briefly, on how he had enjoyed Brother Lovalvo's discourse. It truly was very educational and interesting to us all. Our service was brought to a close with a beautiful original composition sung to us by Brother Larry Champine.

Ann Ciaravino,  
Editor of Branch No. 4

It has taken many years of dedication to obtain this type of recognition. As the new year has now begun, let us rededicate ourselves to serve the Lord better in 1979.

The Editor, *Gospel News*

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### Readers Please Note

The book "My Life With Christ" by Brother Rocco V. Biscotti is now available for sale. Please send \$0.35 plus postage to:

Mr. R. V. Biscotti  
6515 Olde York Road  
Parma Heights, Ohio 44130

Also, the General Church Historian and his assistants have spent considerable time researching records of the General Church. To date, they have not been able to locate Brother W. H. Cadman's Journal of the original charter of the General Church Revelation Book.

If anyone has information regarding these documents, please contact:

Mr. Donald Curry  
123 Reed Drive  
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Clairton, Pennsylvania 15025, OR

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### Mutual Protection Building Fund

This is a reminder to all Branch and Mission Trustee Chairmen that the premium for coverage under the General Church M. P. B. F. is due during the month of January. The premium is \$100.00 per year and coverage is \$15,000.00. The General Church requires that all Branches and Missions that have their own buildings participate. This is supplemental coverage to the regular fire insurance on your building and will cover losses in excess of those not covered by your regular insurance in the event of loss. Checks should be made payable to:

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST — MPBF  
and mailed to:

Anthony Ensana  
1921 S.E. Erwin Rd.  
Port St. Lucie, Fla., 33452

## IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. Lovalvo

**QUESTION:** Why so many divorces in the world today; and how can the members of the Church avoid this great evil?

It is written that there is nothing new under the sun; that history keeps repeating itself over and again. One of the greatest reasons why the ancient Empires of the world had their downfall was IMMORALITY. When the moral standards of an individual, or groups of individuals, or nations begin to plummet downwards, and self-respect begins to wane, then the commandments of the Lord are considered of no value whatsoever. When the clear, moral values decline, that which was once considered good is termed as nonsense; sin is looked upon with favor rather than a degrading element. Divorce has become, as it were, a national pastime. The philosophy is, "If we can't get along, let's get a divorce." The vow "Until death us do part" has little meaning to many.

The Lord warned Israel concerning the impending immoralities and their consequences. He told them, "Defile not yourselves in any of these things; for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you... Ye shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of those abominations; neither any of your own nations, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you. (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled); That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore, shall ye keep Mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the Lord your God." (Lev. 18:24-30)

Having many wives and concubines seemed to be a popular thing among both the Israelites and the Gentiles; putting away the wife (divorce) was a common, everyday affair. But Jesus strongly rebuked those who sought to tempt Him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" He answered them, "Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?' What therefore God hath put together, let not man put asunder." And when they asked Jesus why did Moses allow a writing of divorcement, He answered them, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives; BUT FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS NOT SO." Human beings then, because of the hardness of their hearts, turn to divorces and separations from their mates. Sin, dwelling in the minds and hearts of the children of men, motivates them to do the things which are contrary to the will of God. In the *Book of Mormon*, it is written: "But the word of God burdens me because of your grosser crimes. For behold, thus saith the Lord, 'This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and his son

Solomon. Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before Me,' saith the Lord. Wherefore, thus saith the Lord, 'I the Lord God, will not suffer that this people shall do like unto them of old.' "Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken unto the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be ONE WIFE; and concubines he shall have NONE." "For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before Me;" thus saith the Lord." (Jacob 2:23-28)

The concept of marriage is holy and it was instituted by God. (Gen. 2:24) "Marriage is honourable in all..." (Hebrews 13:4)

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round thy table." (Psalms 128:3) "...let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto her husband." (1st Cor. 2,3)

Today, we have man and woman living together as husband and wife, and yet, not married; The uniting by the clergy is considered meaningless; the marriage vows as passe. Then others will indulge in trial marriages; for a period of time; if it doesn't work, "We'll go our separate ways." This is the New Morality of the times we are living in. And the cliché, "Everybody's doing it" seems to be the rationale whereby marriages are breaking up, of a few years duration or many.

The endeavors to remain together, and adhere to the vows once made are not pursued with diligence nor much care. Unfortunately, the children of these broken marriages are the victims, and suffer most. The efforts to maintain and retain the magic of the first love, and the ecstasy of those romantic early times of marriage are not sought after with the same enthusiasm as months and years go by.

Lack of communication with each other is one of the reasons why marriages begin to flounder. When disagreements arise, some couples do not speak to each other for days, and sometimes, weeks. This is a sign that love is getting cold. Why else would they remain communicationless? "Talk it over" is still good therapy. However, there must be a willingness on the part of both husband and wife to admit their wrong, and a desire to adapt to each other. Love then, is the basis of every successful marriage. Love is the weapon by which all differences are conquered. To help keep a marriage successful is a daily job; it is a "Two-way" street. Husbands and wives have to work together in developing mutual respect and understanding. Physical and spiritual needs must be shared, and, if not altogether understood, the advice of competent Ministers and/or medical persons should be sought.

To the second part of the question, "How can the members of the Church avoid this evil?" I shall endeavor to write some helpful suggestions. To the single and/or unmarried persons: Pray earnestly and sincerely to the Lord, that He will help to select the right mate for you. It is better to remain unmarried than to have an unhappy or broken marriage. Believe completely in God, and have faith that He will provide a proper companion for you. When you think you have found the "right" person to whom you desire to be wed "until death do you part", pray together, and make sure that the primary desire in both your hearts is to serve God all the days of your lives.

Read the Word of God together, for in it you will find a lot of good counsel, especially in the 7th chapter of I Corinthians. Pray that Jesus Christ will guide your lives at all times. True joy and happiness is found in loving each other and, above everything else, loving the Lord. Also, seek the counsel of your Minister.

After marriage, be sure that the line of communication between you is never fouled up nor snarled by small, petty misunderstandings. Pray together at all times; read the word of God together; fast and pray together. Pray together before going to Church that God will bless the services with His Spirit and glory. Be active in Church matters, whereby you may find much gratification, and accomplishment.

Never lose sight of the "First Love". A successful marriage is based upon continuing love. Some few hints to make your marriage an interesting and happy one:

#### HUSBANDS...

- Don't forget to tell your wife how beautiful she is. (Regularly)
- Don't forget to always open the door for her.
- Don't forget to always be a gentleman to her as you were in your courting days.
- Don't forget to give her a hug and a kiss in the morning when you leave for work, and when you return in the evening.
- Don't forget to compliment her cooking or baking. (Even if it isn't the best)
- Don't forget to spend a lot of time with her.
- Don't forget to go places and do things together.
- Don't forget (if there are children from your marriage) to tell your wife that they are beautiful because they look like her. (She'll love it)
- Don't forget to tell your wife, "I love you" very often.
- Don't forget, never be sloppy in your attire. (She'll respect you for it)

#### WIVES....

- Don't forget to tell your husband how handsome he is. (Regularly)
- Don't forget, (if he fails to open doors for you), to just stand there until he does.
- Don't forget to be a "lady" to him as you were in the courting days.
- Don't forget to let him find you neatly attired when he comes home from work.
- Don't forget to let him go to work with a hug and a kiss in the morning.
- Don't forget to greet him at the door, likewise when he comes from work at night.
- Don't forget to cook and bake his favorite dishes. (Even if you don't like them)
- Don't forget to compliment him for the little things he does around the house. (Even if he breaks a few things in the doing)
- Don't forget, (if there are children from your marriage), to tell him that they look like him. He'll love it.
- Don't forget to tell him, "I love you" often. (Even if he is getting older)

#### HUSBANDS and WIVES....The greatest "DON'T FORGET":

- Don't forget to serve God and the Church together

## WEST AFRICAN ECHO

*By Joseph Bittinger*

Desiring that I might be able to make another trip to Africa to visit Brother Nephi De Mercurio and family, and our Church in Nigeria and Ghana if possible. Having been there several times in the past 24 years and experiencing many inconveniences.

Therefore, I had no desire to make this trip for pleasure or a vacation. I was concerned that physically I might not be able to take all the strain that would be involved in keeping a very busy schedule of activity for about two months in this tropical climate. Like all of us, I continue to grow older, a fact that cannot be ignored. I felt that the trip was necessary, but I wanted some assurance from the Lord that I was not going on my own desire alone. I asked the Brothers and Sisters of Fort Pierce Branch to pray with me about the matter, that God would give me some confirmation if I was to go. Otherwise, I would rather stay at home.

Within the week two or three experiences were given as a confirmation to go, also a letter came from Brother Nephi asking me to come in June if possible, that my visit would be a great spiritual uplift to him and his family who were longing for someone from the Parent Church to come.

Brother E. U. A. Arthur, President of the Church in Nigeria and others of the Priesthood were anxiously waiting for my coming to visit the Church and School.

Brother Nephi is teaching Chemistry in the school and has been very busy this first year.

He is also serving as a permanent Missionary for the Church in Nigeria and Ghana, a great responsibility for any man.

I began to make positive plans to leave and set a tentative date of June 15, 1978 and everything fell in order very nicely.

In the meantime, I received an inquiry from Brother Phil Van Allsburg, Detroit, Michigan, wanting to know if I was planning a trip to Nigeria. Since he was preparing to go there himself to visit Brother Nephi and family, and to assist him in setting up some programs for the School perhaps we could travel together. This we arranged to do.

Our departure from Pittsburgh International Airport, was June 15 at 1:00 p.m. We arrived at Port Harcourt at 9:30 a.m. local time the following day. Brother Nephi, Sister Lorraine and their two sons were anxiously waiting for us at the airport, but not certain we would arrive, nor of the time. Needless to say, we were extremely happy to see them waiting for us. It was a happy ending and relief of uncertainty for all of us. After greeting each other, we drove to the Presidential Hotel, near the Airport, where we all spent the night.

Early Saturday morning Brother and Sister E. U. A. Arthur with an entourage came by the School Mini Bus to the Hotel to greet us. We ate breakfast together at the hotel before traveling to Abak.

We were very delighted and thankful to God for providing us this opportunity to see and greet our Brothers and Sisters here in Nigeria once more. We are thank-

ful to them, and appreciate the love and respect shown to us by their coming about 90 miles to greet and welcome us back to their country to be their guest for as long as we wished to remain. We arrived at the Mission House at 3:30 p.m., tired but thankful to God for the Brothers and Sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ and for a safe trip.

We were delighted to find Brother Nephi and family all in good health, happy and enjoying the work they are engaged in.

Again, we were thankful to find Brother E. U. A. Arthur and his family all well and active, along with most of the membership in this area.

Sunday 18th we attended Church services at Atai Otoro. I opened the service using a portion of St. John, 15th Chapter, in speaking to the congregation; they held only one service today.

We rested a few days, only taking care of a few matters that required immediate attention. Brothers Nephi and Ebong would work out a schedule of visiting the various Missions by contacting the Elders in charge. We wished to visit as many as possible in the time that we would have.

Brother Nephi was busy in School and only at times would be free to make visits with Brother Ebong and myself. Sister Lorraine would drive the car and take us when Nephi would be unable to go. The rain season having started, many of the roads were already bad in certain areas, and a few Missions we were not permitted to visit because the roads were too bad.

In order to reach some areas without getting the car stuck in a mudhole or other obstacle in the road, only the driver stayed in the car, the rest of us got out and walked for some distance.

The weather was not as hot as it usually is and the nights were cool enough to sleep, thank the Lord this was an advantage for us.

There was a need for some carpenter work to be done, this I intended to take care of, if I could get the material and some tools to work with.

When it was convenient we tried to schedule meetings with two different Branches or Missions each day, meeting with the first one at 8:00 a.m. and the second one at 10 or 11:00 a.m. This gave us time to do work or take care of other matters in the afternoon.

We usually spoke on the Scripture about 45 minutes then gave every one the opportunity to ask questions that they might have in their mind. Many questions were asked by the Elders and members, most of the time we were able to satisfy them with an answer.

They are happy and appreciate a visit to their Station or area by some one from the Parent Church. We usually found some wanting to be prayed for, or to be anointed for some illness. Sometimes 10 or 15 or even more seeking the Lord for relief.

*To be continued.*



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

### The Year 1978 In Retrospect

The end of the year is a time for reminiscing and summing up, as individuals or, as a Church.

The Church of Jesus Christ was blessed with a happy and auspicious transition from the old to the new when Sister Cora Lee Love was baptized on New Year's Day by Brother Mitchell Edwards at Warren, Ohio Branch.

As the New Year yielded to the constant circling of time, joyful news continued to come, from far and near, of new converts being baptized and received into the fold. On this joyful note, the highlight of the G.M.B.A. Camp-out at Massanetta Springs was the immersion of seven new converts in the beautiful camp lake waters.

### Continuing Progress

Additionally edifying to the Church were reports of continuing progress in the various mission fields, in all locations, among the seed of Joseph (North American Indian) as well as among Gentiles.

Brother Joseph Calabrese continues to render a valuable and needed service to the Church in faithfully and ably answering many inquiries about the Church, especially those from foreign countries. Hopefully and prayerfully, this will bring to fruition the establishment of the Church in many countries. We are reminded here of Nephi's remarkable vision of the Church, "... and its numbers were few, ... nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the Saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth..." (*1 Nephi 14:12*)

Happily, Sisters Rose Mary and Kathleen Furitano arrived home safely in Detroit, July 26 after a month's stay in Nigeria. Their presence and activity proved encouraging and cheering to Brother DeMercurio and family, as well as the Nigerian Saints. God bless and sustain Brother Nephi, Sister Lorraine and children with continuing humility and tenacity in the Lord's work.

Brothers Joseph Bittinger and Philip Val Allsburg also were privileged to journey to Nigeria. Their tour of missionary duty extended from early June to mid August. Their activity brought cheer and revival wherever they went. They experienced extra blessings during their brief stopover in Ghana. The Saints there also were encouraged and strengthened.

Sister Carmella Mazzeo of Lake Worth Branch is presently visiting some of her relatives in Buenos Aires, Argentina and also a cousin of Brother and Sister Milano of Cleveland, Ohio. She will be visiting the little Mission in Cordoba also. God keep her in His care and make her a blessing to many during her two month's stay.

### Blessings, Healings, And Experiences

During the past year, many couples have been united in marriage and many children have been blessed. Many blessings, healings and experiences have been reported from locations far and near.

Regrettably, the year 1978 was not always filled with notes of happiness. A number of the Saints, our loved ones, and friends have gone to dwell with their Redeemer forever.

The Pennsylvania District was especially saddened at the passing of five beloved members of the Priesthood namely: Apostle Samuel J. Kirschner, Evangelist Joseph M. Shazer, and Elders Benjamin T. Cherry, Harry E. Robinson and William C. Love (Ohio District).

Let us approach the New Year with faith and hope:

O God! Our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

—Isaac Watts



## The Children's Corner

*Mabel Bickerton*

### The Shunammite Woman

Dear Girls and Boys,

We only know this woman as the Shunammite, one who was great. She lived with her husband at Shunem a village which is near Esdraelon. Elisha, the prophet, was seen often passing by their house. One day the Shunammite invited him to eat bread and after that the prophet stopped often.

One day she said to her husband, "I perceive that this is a holy man of God, which passes by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall and let us set for him there a bed and a table, and a stool and a candlestick; and it shall be, when he cometh to see us, that he shall turn in hither." Soon the room was ready for Elisha. How blessed they were to have the prophet for a guest.

One day Elisha asked the Shunammite what he could do to repay this kindness. She was not asking for favors to repay her. Elisha's servant, Gehazi, reminded Elisha that the woman did not have a son and her husband was old. Elisha said, "Call her." Elisha told her, "About this time next year you will embrace a son." How happy she and her husband were. The words of the prophet were fulfilled.

Several years passed and the boy went out among the reapers in the field. It would be very warm at the harvest season. The boy cried to his father, "My head, my head!" The father said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." His mother held him on her lap until noon. He grew worse and died. She carried him up to Elisha's room and laid him upon the bed. She closed the door and went out. She called to her husband, "Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men and one of the asses that I may run to the man of God and come again."

Elisha saw the woman coming and said to Gehazi, "Yonder is the Shunammite. Run now I pray, to meet her and say, 'Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?'" She answered, "It is well." Elisha knew something was wrong. He told the servant to let her alone. She asked, "Did I desire a son, my Lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?'" Elisha knew something serious had happened. Elisha arose and followed her. He gave his staff to Gehazi and told him to hurry ahead and place the staff upon the face of the child. When Elisha arrived at the home he went to the room alone and prayed. Then he stretched himself upon the child until his flesh was warm. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." She went into the room, fell at Elisha's feet, bowed herself to the ground and took up her son. What a great miracle!

Later a famine spread over the country of Shunem.

Elisha warned the Shunammite woman to leave her home with her son, and go to the Land of the Philistines. She quickly did as directed. She returned to her home seven years later to find all destroyed. She appeared before the king just at the time Gehazi was relating the great miracle concerning her son. The king said, "Restore all that was hers, from the time she left the land until now." What great faith this woman had and through this she was richly rewarded.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

I expect to pass through this world but but once . . . Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now . . . Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not PASS THIS WAY AGAIN.

### 20th Anniversary of The Lake Worth M. B. A.

The Lake Worth M.B.A. held a Program and Social on Saturday, October 7, 1978 to celebrate its 20-year anniversary as an organized Local in Lake Worth, Florida.

The night was a night to remember for all of us, young and old, as we unfolded the activities, experiences and blessings of the M.B.A. in Lake Worth for the last 20 years. Sister Carmela Mazzeo, our Charter member, prepared the program which consisted of many solos, duets, and quartets, a tribute to the past and present Presidents from Brother Bill Mazzeo, our first President to Brother Jerry Difede, Jr., our present President. Many beautiful memories were brought to life again.

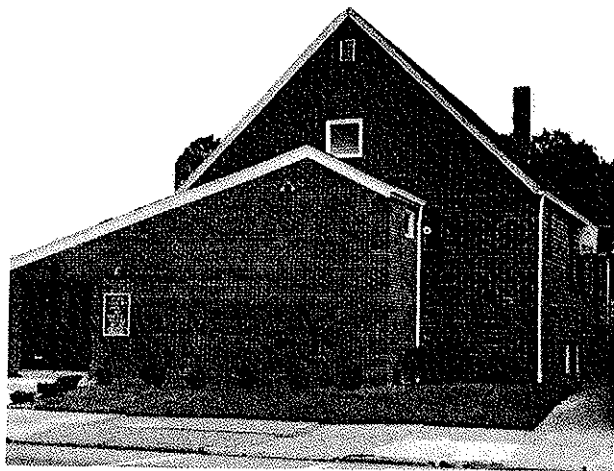
The M.B.A. presented an orchid corsage to Sister Carmela as a small token of our appreciation to her for the wonderful program and the many hours put in to making it so enjoyable. The program was followed by a feast shared by our Brothers and Sisters from Fort Pierce, Miami, Broward and Lake Worth. We thank God for the enthusiasm and support of the young people and old, as well, in making our 20th Anniversary a big success.

### Florida Area M. B. A. Event

On Saturday evening, September 30, all the locals in Florida met for an area activity which included two films followed by a social. The films were shown by Brother Eugene Perri which depicted the life of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon in general. These films were very enjoyable and fit in with the current theme of the Lake Worth local. Lake Worth is currently in a series of meetings which include films that cover the entire Book of Mormon. These films have been most informative and educational and have been very well received by our membership. As always when our MBA locals get together it was an enjoyable evening.

Sister Nancy Difede, Editor

## Lorain, Ohio Branch Remodels Building Front



It was just another of those long meetings. One might say of it, "Is it necessary to explain all the details that are involved in a package of a remodeling job? Why do we have to sit and listen to all the pros and cons?" The usual comments, "Get it done, and get on with it." But you see, it was not just an ordinary meeting. It was something very special. It had to do with the improvement of God's house, and hold the promise to give comfort, convenience and beauty, to all who come to God's house. Meeting after meeting, winter, spring, summer, fall, to all who come for fasting and prayer, for all who come burdened with cares, problems, joys, sorrows, with a hope in their heart that God will at some point, some moment, as they sit and wait in His house, in His loving kindness will touch them and lift their cares, burdens, pains, sickness, as often is the case.

With these expectations in mind, those who care, serve tirelessly to accomplish their purpose, unselfishly giving of time, substance and of self. So it was that all through the hot summer days, you would see Brother Joseph Calabrese, Brother Frank Nardozi, the Branch trustees, and others busy at work seeing to the completion of each task, watching that nothing would be wasted, that every dollar donated by the Brothers and Sisters was utilized to the greatest extent. All gave their support freely in whatever capacity of service called to perform. May God richly bless each and everyone who made the task possible. Now it is done. We are enjoying the results of the long arduous, exhausting task that only those who care can see to its completion. We care because of that very special ingredient Christ placed in our heart, which identifies all His children. "Love." May we continue to cherish this precious gift and nourish it by our continual presence in God's house and by continual loyalty to service.

In God's house we are fed, encouraged by His Word and filled with His Spirit which sustains us in these perilous days. God is in His house all the time waiting patiently for us to reach out to Him.

On November 18, 1978, the Brothers and Sisters met in the church basement for fellowship and to give thanks to God our Father for making the new expansion possible. The Sisters prepared and served a wonderful dinner for the occasion. It was truly a heart warming event to be gathered in unity to give thanks as we all counted our

many blessings spiritually and temporally. The Lorain Branch extends a cordial invitation to all who can to come and worship with us.

Sister Marie Caldwell  
Lorain Branch Editor

November 1, 1978

Greetings in Christ,

They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. To turn others to righteousness, takes an earnest care, added by love which perseveres until it fulfills the convincing the mind of those who truly want to see the beauty of everlasting joy.

The turning is not complete until they taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusts Him O fear the Lord, you his Saints, for there is no want to them that fear God.

May we provoke one another unto love and good works, thereby win some to righteousness.

After General Church Conference (October 28), Brother Joseph Manes and his wife Rose took me to their home in Youngstown, Ohio. As it is my manner to visit particularly the old and infirm, Monday morning Brother Joe took off work to take me to Rootstown. There we visited with Brother and Sister Richard Jobes, and we were blessed in our sharing of our joy in Christ. Then we visited old Sister Manes who is ill; at this time, she lives with her son Nick. Monday night we went to stay with Brother and Sister Anthony Pusateri. On Tuesday, Sister Jean took me to visit old Sister Santilli, and Sister Teresa Gennaro came along. Then, we went to Sharon, Pennsylvania to visit Brother and Sister Gilliland. It was good to visit these who have kept the faith many years.

That evening, we met at the Youngstown Branch and were blessed. Refreshments were served after the service. Youngstown will always be close to my heart.

On Wednesday morning, Sisters Jean Pusateri and Minnie DePiero took me to Kirtland, in the homes of Brother and Sister Milano and Brother and Sister Elmer Santilli. We attended services at Cleveland, and then Brother and Sister Rocco Biscotti took me to their home. I had not visited Cleveland since 1960. It was good to see some new faces and those we have loved since our youth.

I left for home on Thursday. Upon arriving home, I found that my son Samuel had bought me a plane ticket to go to Tijuana. We left Friday morning. On Saturday we met, with a large attendance. Brother Paul D'Amico spoke on the rent coat of Joseph. It was a wonderful day. Many sick were anointed for healing. On Sunday, we met at San Diego, and again, a sweet spirit prevailed.

I slept at the home of Brother and Sister Pilar Cordova, and Samuel stayed at Brother Louis Pacheco's home. These are humble servants of God. Monday morning we departed for home for some rest.

Christ's reconciling love is timeless. It comes from God the Father. He is the eternal presence. The kingdom of God has come to us through Jesus Christ. In Christ, God's restoring mercy found us so that we might find Him.

In our imperfect nature, we often fail, but God's pure love awakens us to see the error of our ways. "Peace be with you."

Love,  
Brother Mark Randy

**BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—****BAPTISM IN NILES, OHIO**

The Niles Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ was blessed with a new convert on October 15, 1978. Our new Sister had asked for her baptism at the end of our Wednesday night meeting. She had been searching for a Church for about a year, and one day was looking through the newspaper under Churches and she came across "The Church of Jesus Christ." She came to our afternoon meeting and was very impressed with what she saw. Soon she was attending our Wednesday evening and Sunday services. A few weeks ago she had her three month old baby blessed in the Church. Jeremy Joseph Williams was blessed by Brother Russell Martorano.

Our Sunday service was opened by Brother Joseph Genaro reading from Matthew 28:18-20, and he spoke on the importance of baptism. He also told of a few experiences that happened in the past years. Brother Russell Martorano continued and spoke on the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. We then departed to the waters of baptism.

Sister Linda Marie Williams was baptized by Brother Russ Martorano and confirmed by Brother Peter Molinatto. We are very thankful to the Lord for our new Sister and we ask that you Brothers and Sisters might pray for her and her family. Her husband was in a serious motorcycle accident and is not able to work, and Sister Linda must work to support the family.

We truly enjoyed the whole day in the love and Spirit of God. Pray for our Branch that we might continue to grow.

Sister Wanda Pandone  
Branch Editor

**BRANCH 1 NEWS**

The excitement at Branch 1 in Detroit, Michigan, had all the area Branches wondering what was going on. It started with Roseanne Scolaro (now Sister Roseanne Scolaro).

On August 6, 1978 we dismissed our Sunday School classes to "gather at the river", to baptize Sister Roseanne. Our Sister had called for her baptism the Sunday before. To our joy and surprise we were greeted by two candidates. Laura Mangiapane would also be baptized and have her name written down in glory.

Sister Roseanne was baptized by her father, Brother Anthony Scolaro. She was confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett. Sister Laura Mangiapane was baptized by her grandfather, Brother Nick Pietrangelo, and confirmed by her uncle, Brother Norman Campitelle.

After the baptisms and confirmations, our day had hardly begun. Our building was filled to capacity, as from all over, Brothers, Sisters and friends came to share our happiness.

The meeting which followed was very special, centering around the youth of the Church. Brother Norman Campitelle inspired them to go onward, forward and courageously to do the Lord's will.

At one point Norman Jr. became part of his father's sermon, to teach our young people the importance of placing their values and priorities in the right direction. Needless to say Norman Jr. was left slightly uncomfortable.

Brother Norman took his text from Rev. 22:4, and spoke of the gifts of the Church. He followed by teaching us about the security, and the firm hold of morality, the Gospel adds to our lives.

Brothers Jerry Benyola and Paul Vitto, equally stimulated the minds and hearts of all present, as they followed in speaking. They likewise spoke to us concerning the hard work and devotion that is necessary in serving the Lord. They also stated that we are never alone no matter what the battle may be.

Our meeting was filled with God's Spirit and our joy, we thought, was filled to overflowing. Yet we had no knowledge of the joys still to come.

On August 20, 1978 we again found ourselves at the river. This caught the attention of Brother Dominic Thomas, who immediately came to witness the baptism. He wondered along with all the other area Branches, "What is going on at Branch 1?"

Our new convert was Brother Joe Ignagni. He was baptized by Brother Anthony Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Dominic Thomas.

Brother Dominic was invited to speak to the congregation. I'm sure his talk was directed towards the young people, but many of our long-standing members left that day, stating they had learned many things which they had never heard before.

Brother Dominic began by reading from the Book of Mormon, Mosiah 18th Chapter, the re-establishment of Christ's Church.

He reminded us of our responsibilities towards one another. To mourn with those who mourn, and to help both in prayer and with the sharing of one another's burdens.

He read to us and detailed the beliefs of The Church.

Following that we were blessed with the opportunity to hear some of our Brother's experiences leading up to his own baptism into the Church.

Following our Sunday morning meeting, a special evening service was held. Brother Paul Vitto asked the young people present, to express themselves in testimony. Brother Joe Ignagni began first. He gave a truly beautiful testimony, honest and filled with love.

The testimonies that followed were also quite lovely. Included in the testimonies were three dreams, had by Keith Mangiapane, Denise Campitelle and Sister Salina Zaccagnini, which foretold of Brother Joe's baptism into The Church.

As the evening drew to an end we were all left wondering what God had in store for us in the weeks ahead.

Sister Diana Thompson



## News from Sterling Heights

Sunday, September 10, was another day of great blessings. A baby, Crystal Cappazoli, was blessed by Brother Paul Whitton, after he had read from the 8th chapter of Moroni, 8th verse through 19 and from Mark 10:13.

Brother Carl Frammolino opened in prayer and was our first speaker of the day. He said if this little child could realize what was happening when she was blessed, she would be a very happy child. He said that as we came here today, we should be very happy to know that we have Jesus in our hearts. Without God, we are nothing. Only God can give life. He has even brought the dead back to life, as Lazarus of old. All power was given to Him by His Father in heaven. Brother Carl read from John 11:20. Jesus said if you will become as a little child, remain faithful, you shall never die. Jesus went to the cross and died for us that we may have eternal life.

If we can feel the depth and the glory in our souls, when the morning of the first resurrection comes, then we have hope of Salvation. You haven't really believed until you become humble. It is essential for us to acknowledge the fact, that only Christ can save us on that last day. If we can take God's hand, and be in the spirit, it is the most beautiful identity we might attain. Do we know our Jesus today, the One who can bring us the reward of eternal life? We must remain in touch with Him every moment, we know not when He will come. There is no sin, no contention, no illness, no death, in that beautiful City of God.

The Champine brothers sang, "Calvary Covers It All."

Jeremy, son of Fred and Nancy Jenkinson, became ill and was anointed. The Elders knelt around him, Brother Louis Vitto offering the prayer. He was then anointed and prayed upon by Brother John Buffa. As the child was wheeled away, a beautiful smile covered his little face, beautiful to behold.

Brother Louis Vitto then said, "We must praise God today, because He lives in our hearts. In the Church, or out, we realize there is a Christ who lives." He read from Romans, Chapter eight, concerning the carnal mind versus the spiritual mind. Christ will be victorious in the end. Outside these doors, there is sin, there is evil. We know there is a life hereafter, we have to make our choice — shall we serve the carnal flesh, or the spiritual, which is Jesus Christ? We can't tell the Lord we are not ready to go, we might cancel our worldly appointments, but we can't cancel that appointment when God comes to take us home. Parents are responsible for their children until they become of the age of accountability.

The meeting was then left open for testimony. Just before the closing song was sung, Priscilla Gianfermi very broken heartedly, asked for her baptism, followed quickly by her sister, Patricia. Today was the birthday of their mother, Helen. What better gift could she have received than the lives of her children given into God's keeping. Our new Sisters were taken to the Detroit river at Belle Isle, and Priscilla was taken into the water by Brother Carl Frammolino, and Patricia, by Brother Louis Vitto. Our visitors today, witnessed about everything that can happen in a meeting and one of these told Brother Louis, they had never met a people like us. They were surprised at what they had seen and heard.

Because of a meeting being held at the Windsor Branch, we went there and our new converts were confirmed, Sister Priscilla by Brother Tony Gerace, and Sister Patricia, by Brother Paul Whitton. Sacrament was administered to them by Brother Louis Vitto. Brother Joe Milantoni spoke to us about his work at the Rex Hotel. He said the Church is an ark of refuge, a place of safety. If we can make Christ paramount in our lives, it is amazing how all things will fit into our life, if it is pleasing to God, from the violent sinner to professing Christians. We must all find something to do in the Church. We have to lift men and women out of the gutters of this life. It is time we fit into the world around us. God has to be instrumental in our attempts to reach people.

Brother Spencer Everett said God expects us, as His children, to bear fruit. We have to guard against being a selective club. We must all share our experiences. We all have different talents, different abilities, and that is the way God planned it. God expects His children to be in harmony. He wants to use us to change people.

On the following Sunday, September 17, several of the Sisters went to Six Nations and because of this, the social for the two converts, was postponed to the 24th.

Brother Louis Vitto began this meeting, stating that we invite the Lord to come into this service, to take the chief seat. We want the Lord to do it all. We owe it all to Him. We sang, "How Great Thou Art", then Brother Norman Campitelli opened in prayer. Brother Louis Vitto then told of the wonderful spirit prevailing in our Branch. He read from the Book of Mormon, and 2nd Chronicles, 2:14. He told of how God spoke to Solomon, and how He used him. With everyone's prayers, collectively, we can move the hand of God.

Sister Hazel Zoltek read two poems written by our new convert, Patti. Sister Patti then testified, telling how she had dreamed she was standing in the water, and her cousin, Sister Salena, was waving to her from the water, but she backed out, saying, "no, no." Then the water receded. Brother Anthony Scolaro, another recent convert from Branch No. 1, told of how everyday, he can feel the prayers of the Saints. Then Sister Priscilla told of how, on the day of her baptism, she wanted to testify, but couldn't get up. She asked God for help. She turned and looked into her mother's eyes, then she heard a voice saying, "You can't leave this building today, without me."

Brother Louis Vitto then called on Sister Denise Rhule, another cousin of the two new Sisters. She told of a dream she had where she saw the girls asking for their baptism, exactly in the order in which it happened.

After the service, refreshments were served and a social period was enjoyed by all.

Sister Hazel Zoltek  
Sterling Heights Editor

## Ordinations in Broward County Mission

It was a beautiful meeting as all in attendance had come to witness the ordinations of Brothers Joe Catone, Sr. and Dennis Moraco to the office of teacher. There were visitors from both Lake Worth and Miami, along with Brother Joe's mother, sister and niece.

Brother James Sheffler opened the meeting in prayer,

and Brother Eugene Perri followed. Brother Perri's sermon was based on the worshipping of idols found in Joshua.

Brother Dennis' feet were washed by Brother Eugene Perri, and he was ordained by Brother Alvin Swanson. Brother Joe's feet were washed by Brother Alvin Swanson, and Brother James Sheffler ordained him.

Our prayers are that God will bless our newly ordained Brothers as they endeavor to further the work of The Church.

## Brothers Ordained into Ministry

Brothers and Sisters from several branches gathered together to witness the ordination of Brothers Jesse Carr and Lirio Fallavollitti into the ministry. Branches represented were Greensburg, Roscoe, Aliquippa, McKees Rocks, Glassport, Fredonia, Herndon, Virginia; Youngstown, Ohio; and Lake Worth, Florida.

The morning service began with the blessing of Richele Lynn Markazene, daughter of Rick and Darlene Markazene, who attended the Greensburg Branch, by Brother Paul Gehly. Brother Paul commented on the fact that three-week old Richelle was smiling so intensely as he took her in his arms to bless her. This was a confirmation of the sweet, peaceful Spirit of God that prevailed throughout the day.

Beautiful and inspiring words were heard as the many elders spoke to us during the course of the day. The morning meeting was opened by Brother Russell Cadman, who read and commented about the Apostle Paul's teachings concerning the ministry. Brother Joseph Bittinger then followed by relating Brother Cadman's remarks to the present day. Brother Bud Martin then described how the ministers are called to be shepherds of the flock and emphasized how the minister's life will change as the flock becomes the center of his life. Brother Paul Gehly summarized the speakers' remarks and set the tone for the service and ordinations that were to take place after lunch.

The afternoon service was opened as Brother Paul Palmieri talked about how the ministers have to give of themselves even as our Lord did. Brother Tony Corrado gave his testimony of his baptism and related the experience concerning his calling into the priesthood.

Brothers Jesse Carr and Lirio Fallavollitti addressed the congregation before their ordinations. Brother Jesse thanked everyone for their prayers. Brother Lirio told how God worked to call him into the priesthood. Brother Lirio's feet were washed by Brother Paul Gehly, and Brother Tony Corrado ordained him. Brother Jesse's feet were washed by Brother John Kendall, and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Bittinger.

It was a blessing to see and hear from Brother Tony Todaro, 91 years of age, who has not been able to meet with the Greensburg Brothers and Sisters for many months because of his failing health.

Near the close of the meeting, Brother Alma Nolfi felt to tell an experience he had in 1974 while visiting the Greensburg Branch. At that time, Brother Nolfi saw, in the Spirit, Brother Lirio being ordained into the ministry. This was another confirmation of Brother Lirio's calling.

Our prayers are that the Lord will bless our two new Elders as they dedicate themselves to do God's work.

## Arizona-California Spiritual Gathering

On November 11 and 12, 1978, the Arizona and California Saints held a joint meeting on the lovely grounds of Marana Air Park, Arizona. We had long desired to meet together, and this event finally became a reality. Thank God, the weekend proved to be very successful, and from the reaction of many of those who attended, it was very enjoyable.

Brother Robert Watson, President of the Arizona District, was in charge, and through the efforts of all the various committees, everything went very well. Accommodations, meals, finances, recreation, singing, program, seminar, auditorium and refreshment committees all did an excellent job.

There were about 75 people from California who attended, and on Sunday, we numbered about 180. Brother Tom Liberto, President of the California District, and all those who attended from California should be commended for travelling so far to be there. It was good to see so many together for this occasion. We were pleased to have two of our Apostles with us — Brother Joseph Lovalvo from California and Brother Paul D'Amico from Lockport, New York.

Saturday's events started with a welcome and chapel, with Brother Steve Saffron acting as Chaplain. Then there were seminars in the morning and afternoon according to age and interest groups. Our reports were that the seminars were all very enjoyable and that many took part in discussing the various topics. Because the weather was windy and rainy, the large recreation hall provided a good place for many activities, including refreshments and socializing. After supper, we had community singing, with groups from California and Arizona doing a fine job. The campfire was rained out, but most of the Saints gathered in the recreation hall and enjoyed visiting and meeting one another.

On Sunday morning, the Red Lake choir sang, and a number of the Saints from San Carlos sang in English and Apache. Brother Paul D'Amico opened the meeting, speaking on *Psalms* 23, and of many of his experiences in the service. Brother Patsy Marinetti spoke on the life of David who had written this psalm. We also heard from Brothers Otto Henderson, Dick Christman, Tony Picciuto, Jake Christman and Bob Watson. Brother Jake and Brother Paul were both anointed for illness. In spite of affliction, the Brothers' zeal for the Gospel of Jesus Christ was very evident.

All too soon it was time to depart for home. Even though the rooms were good, the meals excellent and the grounds beautiful, it was the presence of the Saints that made it such a wonderful success. Thank God for His many blessings throughout the weekend.

Brother Paul Francione  
Camp Director,

## Tampa, Florida Branch

The meeting to organize Tampa as a Branch took place on Saturday, September 23, 1978 at 7:00 p.m. We